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MWC Leadership Contingent Attends State Conference

By Colleen Higgins
Bullet Staff Writer

On Friday morning, April 6, four Student Association leaders, five minority students, and Dean Beck, Cedric Rucker and Art Brooks left Mary Washington's campus to spend the weekend in Richmond.

The group represented MWC at a conference sponsored by the Student Association of Virginia and the State Convention of Higher Education. The conference focused on how to better human relationships on campuses. The main goal was to improve the racial climate for minority students.

"The conference was most beneficial because students and administrators had the opportunity to have dialogue about a problem which affects all campuses," stated Rucker, associate dean for Student Activities.

The attending students were Kurt Rupprecht '92, Jeff Woo '92, Steve Ulcy '92, Nellie King '92, Liam Cleaver '92, Tracy Turner '93, Janelle White '91, Dietrich Smith '93, and Colette Webb '93.

"This was very exciting because it was the first time the state council came to students for their ideas about the racial climate -- minority students and majority students," said Joanne Beck, dean of students.

The conference was attended by 14 of the 15 public colleges/universities in the state of Virginia.

"Finally, students everywhere are taking ownership for the racial climate at their institution and trying to do something about it," commented Beck.

"The greatest part of the whole conference was that students led it - everything came from the students. It was the first conference of this type. Stu-

see CONFERENCE, page 3

Muhammad Defends Nation of Islam Leader Farrakhan

Speaker refutes claims of anti-Semitism, but calls blacks God's chosen people

By Mike Fuhrman
Bullet News Editor

"I didn't come here to teach my brothers and sisters and my people to hate Jews," explained Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad.

Muhammad, assistant to Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, addressed a crowd of 100 supporters, curious onlookers, and protesters in Dodd Auditorium on Monday, April 9.

"I didn't come here to teach them to hate white people, but I did come here to teach them from the honorable Louis Farrakhan to love your black self," he continued.

Muhammad's visit to MWC, on the first day of Passover, angered some members of the MWC community because of his organization's reputation for promoting anti-Semitism.

On Farrakhan's reputation for being anti-Semitic, Muhammad claimed that the leader had been

misquoted and his statements taken out of context. Then, however, he proceeded to call the Jewish fellowship "inferior."

"We did not come tonight to make little of your hurt," began Muhammad, apparently speaking to those who thought the program would be little more than an assault on the Jewish population. "We did not come to disrespect you."

"We came in the spirit of peace, we came in the spirit of black unity; for this is a black program sponsored by the Black Student Association by black people and for black people. And I came to talk, from the honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, to black people, so I cannot tiptoe through the tulips. I must tell it just like it is."

Muhammad criticized the emphasis that our schools place on white history and the lack of for-

see MUHAMMAD, page 3
see also OPINIONS, page 4-7



Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad's visit was sponsored by the Black Student Association.

Weststock '90



Buddhist Priest rocks Weststock. Story, page 12.

Photo: Rob Kassabian



Flanked by two bodyguards, Muhammad defended Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan.

Photo: Dave Crumley

NEWS

THE MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE BULLET

Pranks, Nostalgia Highlight Junior Ring Week Rites

By Katherine Ashby
Bullet Staff Writer

During the week April 2-7, one might have noticed weird things around campus, like cars parked between Mason and Randolph and an assortment of interesting fliers on Seacobeck tables. These antics were all part of the Junior Ring Week festivities.

The week included nightly events planned by Class Council, like a BYOB mixer in the Great Hall, a performance by the Rabble Rousers in the Underground, the movie "Bachelor Party" in the Great Hall, and Ring Presentation. The presentation, which took place in Dodd Auditorium, was one of the more formal events of the week. Juniors

listened to guest speaker Professor Marshall Bowen, and then received their rings and a handshake from President Anderson. Junior Jackie Rueckert reflected on the event as "nostalgic."

A semi-formal dance in the Great Hall concluded the week. Despite sore feet and the high temperatures in the Great Hall, Ashley Martin '91 stated, "We had a really good time." Martin also commented that the buffet in the Eagles' Nest downstairs was an added bonus: People could take a break from dancing and just talk and hang out for awhile.

In addition to all the planned events, the juniors were also busy trying to protect themselves and their belongings from the rest of the student body.



Mercer residents find their Junior Ring Week living quarters to be quite comfortable.

The week was an excellent excuse to "terrorize" the juniors. Popular jokes included taping undergarments to doors, stealing clothes, throwing people in the fountain, and trashing rooms. Many juniors locked their rooms to prevent destruction. "We were safe all week,"

added Rueckert. "We kept our door locked, but we got nailed on Saturday night." Another form of torture was the use of fliers on Seacobeck tables. Mary Washington students got to see another, more relaxed, side of many juniors. Hope Dinelli, a victim of

"flier humiliation," said of the week, "It was hell."

Although some juniors suffered from these jokes, overall they seemed to really enjoy themselves. As Dinelli concluded, "It was a lot of fun, but it was inconvenient sometimes."

MWC Debate Team Challenges Japanese Nationals

By Andrea Hatch
Bullet Staff Writer

On April 3, the Mary Washington College Debate Team challenged the Japanese National Debate Team. The teams debated whether or not the United States should adopt protectionist trade policies toward Japan.

MWC seniors Kristen Flowe and John Thomas debated the affirmative, supporting the protectionist trade policy against Japan.

As a part of their six week debate tour of the United States, Hideaki Kitabayashi '90 from Dokkyo University, Tokyo and Hiroharu Nakamura '90 from Sophia University, Tokyo com-

prised the negative team.

"The approach that we think makes the most sense is to protect U.S. industries by opposing quotas on Japanese exports to the United States and employing the so-called Super 301 Provision in the Omnibus Trade and Competitiveness Act of 1988," argued Flowe in her first affirmative speech.

"The U.S. Trade Representative, Carla Hills, has already informed the Japanese government that trade practices with respect to a variety of products such as satellite communications, super conductors, and super computers are unfair," continued Flowe. "The Super 301 process calls for negotiations to occur with the aim of removing the trade barrier. If negotiations fail, Super 301 promotes us to act by

using protectionist measures of our own."

If this trade deficit continues, the stan-

They are not denying that in a few specific markets the Japanese don't even let [the United States] compete.

John Thomas

dard of living will decline and the U.S. will become militarily and economi-

cally dependent on Japan, argued Flowe.

In response, Nakamura felt that a protectionist measure should not be taken by the U.S. because there is a difference in the quality of products, stating that the deficit is justifiable because "it is affected by the demand of the supply." Even if Japan adopts protectionist measures, the situation will not change.

"They are not denying that in a few specific markets the Japanese don't even let [the United States] compete," countered Thomas. "Those markets are the supercomputers, satellites, and other high-technology equipment. We want to export those products to Japan and they're simply not allowing us to do that," he stated.

In conclusion, Flowe summarized

that unless low-level quotas are set up against the Japanese, the United States' standard of living will decrease and the U.S. will become dependent on Japan.

"The Japanese did not deny that Japanese citizens want American goods and that open markets are not available," restated Flowe.

The debate was sponsored by the department of English, linguistics, and speech and the MWC Debate Team.

The Speech Communication Association began sponsoring an annual tour in which Japanese and American teams debate current topics of interest in 1969. This year's tour began on March 12 and will run for six weeks. The debates are held at 23 American colleges and universities in 16 states.

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MUHAMMAD...
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mal instruction in the achievements of the black race.

"We must study black history on a daily and consistent basis," he proposed, "for if we don't know where we came from, we won't understand where we are today and we won't understand clearly where we are headed in the future."

"We know your history and we don't make fun of your history and we are not here to disrespect you. Listen to us. Listen to our pain. Listen to our holocaust," he added.

"We want the Jews in the audience to listen to us. Just dialogue with us. Let's communicate tonight," pleaded Muhammad.

For much of the address, Muham-

mad spoke directly to the Jewish members of audience. "We're not going to let you steal our birthright from us," claimed Muhammad. "We will fight you with truth and we will not bow down to your inferior fellowship."

He argued that the black race, not Jews, are God's chosen people, citing chapter 14 in the book of Genesis. "Black man and black women," he stated, "you are the chosen people of God."

Apparently speaking to the white audience, he then declared, "We cannot bow down to your interpretation of scripture."

He repeatedly stressed the exploitation of the black man in today's white society.

"[It's] 1990 black man, and you're still driving for Miss Daisy," quipped Muhammad.

CONFERENCE
from page 1

dents would even be the ones who place the proposals with the state, "said King.

"The great thing about it was that students convinced the state council to get it together," added Rucker.

The conference rose from a challenge posed to the Student Association of Virginia at a meeting at Mary Washington College two years ago by Warren Davies, director of the state council. He challenged those in attendance to come up with some ideas of how to improve the climate on campus for minority students. This conference grew out of that challenge.

The keynote speaker at the conference was Secretary of Education James W. Dyke, Jr. After the preliminary speakers, several workshops were held. The workshops consisted of discussing problems and suggesting solutions to the racial climates at the schools. The MWC representatives split up so that all the workshops would be covered. The state council left it up to each college to develop programs to improve the racial atmosphere at their school, but they are willing to fund two projects up to \$2,000 each.

During one of the workshops, the movie "The Road to Brown" was shown. The movie was a documentary discussing the Brown vs. Board of Education, Topeka, Kansas Supreme

court decision. After the movie, Janelle White and Dean Beck led a discussion about the steps taken to give blacks the same opportunities as whites. After this, students were able to share their personal experiences of racism at their colleges.

Currently, there are two programs in place already—the summer transition program and freshman year introductions. The summer transition program enables incoming students visit MWC and take a few courses and receive study tips over the second summer school session.

"This program enables students to get a leg up and get to know the campus a little better before the other freshmen arrive," stated Beck.

Health Beat

Question: What can I do for a cold without coming to the Health Center?

Answer: If you develop symptoms of the "common" cold, there are several things you can do to help take care of yourself and improve the way you feel:

Rest—if you have a viral infection, such as a cold, you should get eight to ten hours of sleep per night.

Fluids—you should drink six to eight glasses of non-alcoholic fluid daily to decrease fever and loosen secretions.

For aches and pains—take aspirin or Tylenol to help ease the feverish feeling and achiness of the cold.

Police Beat

Jim Bartlett

April 3 - Someone illegally removed the antenna from vehicle that was parked by Marshall Hall.

April 4 - Also at Marshall, a student was taken into custody for being drunk and shouting obscenities, two others were captured for possessing an unauthorized master key, and a purse was stolen.

April 9 - An altered driver's license was found in Jefferson and turned over to DMV.

April 10 - The person responsible for vandalizing furniture in Randolph Hall was apprehended.



Photo: Mark Rashleigh

"The great thing about it was that students convinced the state council to get it together," added Cedric Rucker, assistant dean for Student Activities.

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OPINIONS

THE MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE



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Editorial

Well, with all that happened last Monday, you might be able to guess what my editorial will be about. That's right, baseball. What were you thinking? Last Monday was opening day. Oh, I get it. You thought I was going to write on bigotry, racism, Dr. Muhammad and the Nation of Islam, right? Well, I didn't go, and I don't know. I'll just read about it in the paper.

Now let's talk baseball. The game of baseball has been a mainstay of the American culture for over 100 years. While America has experienced cultural and social upheaval, it has been baseball that has remained constant. "It is a pure game which soothes the soul and reminds us of all that once was good."

But I want to talk "old" baseball. Not baseball today. Not baseball where Howard Johnson is considered a power-hitter, not about weapon-wielding Darryl Strawberry, and not about middle-infielders named Juan, Luis, or Jose.

I'm talking about baseball, "when the ball was dead, and the basepaths were alive with scurrying feet." When you had to have a nickname to be somebody, and when 12 homers could lead the league. Guys like Rube, Dutch, Wec Willie, Christy, Walter, Cy, Three-Finger, and Homerun. Baseball when pitchers completed games they started, and when guys batted .400. When Christy Mathewson would win 25 and have an off-season.

The sad fact is, that baseball has steadily decreased over the last 20 years. The game has suffered with the implementation of the designated hitter and the use of astroturf. Unlike old days when players earned meager four-digit salaries, today's players quibble over the decimal figure following their million. Rickey Henderson cries out in anguish because the A's won't throw in a Ferrari with his multi-million dollar contract, if he should surpass the all-time stolen base mark. "It's the little things that hurt," he pouted. In 1929, the Phillies' Lefty O'Doul batted a league leading .398. The Phils increased his salary by \$500. The next year, he batted a paltry .383, and they cut his salary by a \$1,000. I guess Rickey

would settle for a Yugo.

Ballplayers today can't match-up talent-wise either. Though the longball has come to dominate the game, and add an extra factor of drama and excitement, it's simply a matter of the ball being wound tighter and constructed differently after the 1920 season.

Now, let's compare. In 1911, Joe Jackson (of *Field of Dreams* fame) batted at a .408 clip for Cleveland. However, Ty Cobb stroked 248 hits for a .420 average, denying the legendary Jackson from winning the batting title, with the sixth highest average in the 20th century. In 1980, George Brett flirted with the .400 mark for the majority of the season, before concluding with a .390 mark. As amazing as that mark seemed at the time, it was only the 25th highest in history. The quality and level of play has simply decreased.

In 1904, Jack Chesbro won 41 games. He posted a 1.82 ERA over 455 innings, while completing 48 of 51 games started. No one in the seventies won more than 27, and no one in the eighties won more than 25, and that was Steve Stone. Who? Maybe only O's fans know. You have to go all the way back to 1968 and Denny McLain's fabulous year, before you even find anyone who won 30. (McLain won 31.) Look at it this way, Bret Saberhagen led the majors last year with 12 complete games. Chesbro was not the exception. Ed Walsh won 40 in 1908, and starting pitchers commonly collected 400 or more innings pitched. Baseball is still strong. It is still exciting. Ballplayers are still heroes in pinstripes. Baseball will continue to prosper. With Puckett, Boggs, Gwynn, Canseco, Doc., Clark, Clemens, and Nolan, how can it not. As long as fathers continue to have catches with their sons on warm summer nights, and as long as every little boy dreams of playing big-league ball, baseball will be just fine.

I'd just like to see somebody win 30, or somebody (preferably Kirby) bat .400, and see the game elevated to the level of play which once existed, a long time ago. But I still love this game.

--Jeff Poole, Editor-in-Chief

Cullen Seltzer

Racism, Bigotry, No Fun at All

Not long ago, I wrote a column about Lewis Farrakhan. In it, I suggested that the D.C. Council showed less than sound judgement in its decision to award Rev. Farrakhan a commemorative plaque and a Council resolution in recognition of his efforts (largely successful) to rid Mayfair Mansions of its drug markets and in many respects make that community liveable again. I argued against that resolution not because I have a hidden agenda to encourage drug markets, drug addiction, the erosion of the family unit among the socio-economically disadvantaged, or otherwise add my foot to the collective boot print of society on the neck of the underclass--which incidentally does exist, and is growing, and is disproportionately comprised of minorities.

Enter into this picture, the Rev. Farrakhan. Irate at this unfair situation, Farrakhan has taken a number of steps. These include genuine efforts to revitalize his principal constituency--the black community--and indeed among his followers he has had a measure of success. What then, do I find so troubling about Farrakhan? The fact is that he is, among all of his good traits, a racist. He is anti-Jewish. He has made positive references to Adolf Hitler, he has labeled Judaism a gutter religion, he has sworn that Allah and the black community will avenge his own hypothetical assassination by a new Holocaust, he charges that Jews control the mass media in this country, etc.

The documentation to back up the above exists, and is available from me upon request. It is unfortunately too lengthy to reprint here. Farrakhan apologists claim he has been misquoted, misunderstood, mis-whatever. It seems that no Farrakhan excess is too great to be given a "mis"ive to excuse it. Never mind that the average attendee of a rally or speech or reader of newspaper is unlikely to pursue Farrakhan's true intent. The average audience not being gifted with the ability to divine a speaker's true message telepathically, that reader must rely upon what is said and written. What I hear, and what I read is a message of hate. It is easy for me and much of the leadership that believes in Farrakhan to reject that message; many of us have had a lot of practice. What we all know is that Americans, when pressed, have adopted more than once the politics of hate. The atrocities of the Ku Klux Klan need no repetition here, nor should the fact that there was much ambivalence in this country over whatever or not to back Hitler in World War II. Remember, we entered the war in Europe because he declared war on us, not the other way around.

The sad update to this story is that the Black Student Association invited Dr. Kaldid Abdul Muhammad to speak at Mary Washington on April 9. Dr. Muhammad is the International/National Special Assistant to Farrakhan, and was his representative on campus. Am I angry that someone who professes hate will be speaking not two hundred yards from my dorm room? Am I little afraid? Yes. I take some measure of pride in being quick to point out racism where it exists. I hope I've been able to lend at least moral support to the struggle against hate through this column and through my own behavior. I confess I am hurt, and not a little offended that the organization I thought least likely to sponsor bigotry (regardless of its easy to swallow coating) has brought the agent of Farrakhan to campus.

I had hoped that this last column could be a little lighter. I had hoped to say good-bye to friends and wish them luck. I had hoped to extend gratitude and include a bit of pre-graduation nostalgia. Alas, five weeks from graduation, I spend time decrying the proliferation of bigotry, the spread of hate. More important perhaps, but no fun at all.

I'm Mad As...

Dave Saunders

Well, folks, this is it; the last column of my College Career. I know that some of you are sad as I am. Like most other seniors, I'm starting to feel a wee bit sentimental about leaving this wonderful place. (B.S.! Who am I kidding? I'll miss MWC like a case of last year's hemorrhoids!)

Among nothing else, I'll miss Seacobeck the most. I'm already sad that I'll never see another "double fish night." Nor will I be able to enjoy seeing "meatlog" (a.k.a. Salisbury steak) or Mexican corn three days after I've eaten it. Ah, the memories.

I could ramble on, like I usually do, but I'd like to get to the meat of the matter. I wanted to use my last column as a chance to address the people who complained or otherwise bored me to tears with remarks about my previous columns. You know the type: people without a sense of humor.

Well anyway, I'd like to apologize to the campus police and especially Officer Donut Eater. I'd like to apologize for my comments on The Underground and to those students who have ever spent an evening there.

I want to apologize for referring to the Baptist Student Union as "The God Squad." And I have to sincerely apologize to the members of NOW for that Bic Shaver reference.

With that out of the way, I'll get right to my last Will and Testament. I, Dave Saunders, being of sound mind and body, do hereby bequeath the following of my college posses-

sions....

To Bernie Shapiro, I leave a gold-plated clicker and a tube of Brilcream.

To President "Smiling Bill" Anderson, I leave a family-size tube of PolyDent.

To one unnamed resident director, I leave Julie, my inflatable love doll.

To Vice President of Admissions Conrad Warlick, I leave my ugliest plaid dinner jacket.

Last and certainly least, to Associate Dean of Residence Life Pete Lefferts, I leave some things he could really use; the Lion's COURAGE, the Tin Man's HEART and the Scarecrow's BRAINS.

And to you, the UNDERgraduates, I leave my sincerest heartfelt sympathy because you are the schmucks who have to stay here another year or two or three.

With that said, I would like to take this opportunity to thank several people who made my college experience unbearable. I'd like to thank "Ape Woman" at the 7-Eleven for agreeing to dance at my bachelor party. (I'm not getting married folks, I'm just throwing a bachelor party to celebrate the fact that I'm single.) My appreciation is also extended to Dean Beck for helping me to understand the concept of Alcoholism. Finally, and seriously, I couldn't leave without saying "later" to all of the wonderful guys and gals who I've met and befriended during my time here. To you I say, "Party on, Dudes and Dudettes--Be excellent to each other."

April 9, A Sad Day

Rich Cooper

April 9 was one of the saddest days in the history of Mary Washington College. The invitation and address by Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad was one of the most insensitive acts ever to occur here at the College. Instead of fostering black nationalism and equality, alienation and anger were created.

As a community of equals that administrators, faculty, and students have been working to create, an injustice is committed by inviting an outside force to mock and judge us, without knowing anything about us. MWC has made great strides to reach out to minority communities, and needs to continue that progress, but we do not help the situation here by bringing in people like Dr. Muhammad who offend other minorities and alienate the campus population.

The administration and Board of Visitors have set the standard for behavioral expectations at Mary Washington. "Respect the individual," "personal integrity," "dignity," and "acceptance and appreciation of diversity in our community with regard to race, gender, culture, and creed," are all items we cherish as an institution. Each was violated Monday night, and it is every person's responsibility to take action so this type of behavior is corrected and becomes non-existent at Mary Washington. Until then our Standard of Community Values and Behavioral Expectations is useless.

I believe in the constitutional right of freedom of speech, but when hatred and alienation are created, that right needs to be rechecked. We would never

want the Nazi party, or Ku Klux Klan, or any other race supremacist group to rally at Mary Washington. Then why were Dr. Muhammad and the Nation of Islam invited?!

Dr. Muhammad asked who we were to tell him what to say. We are a people who desire community equality, a pride in our cultures, and a diversity of ideas and spirit. We do not need people in this community like Dr. Muhammad who preach separatism and prejudice. Thought-provoking speakers we need. Bigots we don't!

I have discussed the events of Monday night with several people. Many have expressed the view that the Nation of Islam fosters an increased black identity and cultural awareness. I applaud those efforts and hope they continue, but why must this nationalism be created at the expense of mocking and slandering other races and cultures? The drug war has been another positive step the Nation of Islam has taken, but again at the expense of hatred towards others.

A battle is won through alliances, not alienation. Minister Farrakhan, Dr. Muhammad, and the Nation of Islam need to be aware of that if they really want to help their community. There are whites, Jews, Asians, Christians, and countless others who want to work together to remedy society without regard to their color, gender, or creed. What was propagated April 9th had nothing to do with the brotherhood of man and positive advancement for the future.

By Jeff Poole

Your Voice...

Photos: Pam Richardson

What are your exciting, strange, important, or otherwise interesting summer plans?



"Stay here, work at Ruby's, and take both sessions of summer school so I can double major."
Jamie Sutphin '92



"Take summer courses at home and work a lot, so I can hopefully transfer out of this school."
Bart LaGrassa '93



"Working in an accounting firm, training for field hockey for next year. I'll go to the shore as much as I can."
Rebecca Gajdalo '92



"First, I'm going to Charlotte to visit my sister. She's taking me to a Hornets game on my birthday."
Scott Chagnon '92



"Take a physics course, live here in Fredericksburg. I'll work somewhere...and party."
Michele Silver '90

Letters to the Editor

BSA Defends Decision

The Executive Board of the Black Student Association of Mary Washington College invited Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad to address issues of concern to black students and black people in the local community. Dr. Muhammad's topic was "Black Unity on Campus and in the Community." As in the case with most speakers on campus, Brother Khalid had the flexibility to address additional issues in his presentation. Therefore, we do not apologize for his presence on campus, or his right to address the differences between the Nation of Islam and the Jewish community. Dr. Muhammad's appearance inadvertently coincided with Passover. It was not an intentional plan. The date selected was based on the speaker's schedule and facility availability.

Quite naturally, many listeners might have chosen different words for the speaker, or delivered the message with a different style, but a guest speaker has the right to select his/her own style and choice of words. There have been some points of contention, language among these (i.e., profanity, overgeneralizations, and the use of the words fool and devil). On the other hand, we are comfortable with his content and most definitely agree with his points of substance!

For example, the *Free-Lance Star* news reporter failed to mention the outstanding African history lesson Dr. Muhammad gave the audience. The reporter failed to mention the numer-

ous times Brother Khalid stated his respect for the Jewish people and how black people empathize with their pain: "We want the Jewish community in the audience to listen to us. Just dialogue with us tonight. Try to empathize with us. Let's communicate tonight. As the bible says, 'Let us reason together'... But you tonight must open your mind and open your heart and listen to our hurt."

The reporter omitted the clear explanation of the statements of Hitler being "wickedly great," and the term "gutter" religion! Dr. Muhammad spent a great deal of time explaining how these statements were taken out of context and not fully explained! The following statements are some position quotes that are taken from Dr. Muhammad's speech and should be highlighted in any fair newspaper article. Do not leave out positive remarks and print the most controversial and volatile statements! Please show both sides of the speaker's remarks. For example:

"[If there are grounds for unity], let us embrace each other, and if there is no room, then at least we will have a better understanding of each other."

"Elijah Muhammad and Louis Farrakhan have a theological difference [with you]; why do we have to be so disagreeable because we disagree?"

"You do what is for and in the best interest of your people; you should look out for your people, and you should be in unity. You should have in your hearts, NEVER AGAIN to what

happened to you under Hitler. You should never want it to happen again and you should be on guard constantly..."

The above quotes represent only a few of the many positive statements made by our guest speaker.

In conclusion, we feel the speaker provoked the opportunity for healthy campus dialogue. For the first time, some white MWC students decided to have dialogue with black students. Our campus has the opportunity to take anger, confusion, hostility, and mistrust and convert those negative feelings into positive things like student discussion groups, student understanding of different groups, and increased tolerance towards diversity in our community. The Nation of Islam speaker forced our campus to deal with ideas, beliefs, and a religious lifestyle unfamiliar to MWC. The security force, the Fruit of Islam, probably upset some people, but because something is new and different, it is not automatically insensitive and evil!

We are willing to sit down and discuss, with concerned students (i.e. Hillel, C.C.C., S.A.) or any responsible student group, the pros and cons of our B.S.A. program. We hope that the speaker provoked some positive thoughts that will lead to more discussion and behavior that will deal with the real racial issues on campus, in our state, and in our nation."

Eco-Update

Russell Cate

Earth Day is April 22. What is Earth Day all about?

It's about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which might soon be desecrated by being tapped for a tiny amount of oil. It's about the fact that the Valdez spill was merely the largest, and best-publicized, of almost daily spills.

It's about the military, which wants to buy thousands of acres of western land for the environmentally-ruinous act of testing hardware and weapons.

It's about the much-cleaner air we could be breathing this summer if my legislators had required fume-trapping nozzles on D.C.-area gas pumps.

It's about the President and Congress, both of which are ignoring Americans' overwhelming support for much tougher environmental legislation.

It's about the windows in my room that were never shut this winter because of hyperactive heaters. It's about the lights in my dorm that are always on.

It's about all the paper that could be printed on both sides and is not. It's about all the junk mail that will be in my mailbox tomorrow. It's about

the styrofoam used in Seacobeck.

It's about the flooding of campus lawns by sprinklers in the spring and fall (usually near scheduled BOV meetings). It's about the landfill-destined, plastic bag-enclosed winter holiday greens seen being thrown out during fall exam week.

It's about all the polluted air resulting from car trips to the Battlefield, Giant, etc. It's about all the trees that used to stand in the barren area between the library and North Hall.

It's about how the city of Fredericksburg discourages the use of bikes rather than cars to get around town by not providing easy-access sidewalks. It's about the drinking water Fredericksburg residents didn't have over winter break because of a fuel spill.

It's about the fact that the cost of setting up a recycling program on campus (as opposed to the environmental benefit) is the key consideration. It's about the fact that, short of immediate change, my generation's children will have to cope with a world that can, at best, barely sustain them.

Come out and join in EARTH FEST on Friday, April 20; it's about change for a better world.

Dr. Muhammad's Speech As Positive As it Was Negative

To the Editor:

Over the last few days, I have been thinking about Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad's speech last Monday, April 9. I have been in conflict over what I got out of his speech and the opposition that has arisen toward him since. But I want to make it clear that I enjoyed his talk and have no intention of apologizing for it. At the same time, I do not believe that either Dean Arthur Brooks or the Black Student Association need apologize for bringing him here.

First, let's look at this issue on an academic level. I believe that the entire purpose of higher education is to ex-

pand one's mind. Does this only hold true if you agree with what you are learning? Do we strive for diversity, or just diversity when it is convenient?

Second, it is unfortunate that Dr. Muhammad's appearance fell on Passover, but that was not a deliberate act. The date arrived at was a result of location and speaker availability. That this fell on Passover, I am sure, was an oversight; not that it makes it automatically right, it just makes the planners human. And if you are asking how Dean Brooks could overlook this: perhaps it is in the same way the College invited James Kilpatrick as a visi-

see LETTER, page 10

Apologies, Not Public Forums Are Due

To the Editor:

I am writing in protest to the lecture given by Dr. Khalid Abdul Muhammad, representative of the Nation of Islam, on Monday, April 9, in Dodd Auditorium.

It is appalling to me that a man who condones anti-Semitism, ethnic separationism, and unadulterated racism should be allowed to speak on campus. It is also embarrassing to me that Dr. Khalid was brought to campus by the Black Student Association and the Dean of Minority Affairs. Finally, it disgusts me that this man is even allowed on campus on Passover, a well-known Jewish holiday.

It is nice to know that the freedom of speech and expression is--to a degree--allowed to flourish on campus. However, this man's prejudices are not acceptable in a community that expresses "the acceptance and appreciation of diversity in our community with

regard to race, gender, culture, and creed." This is when freedom of expression is taken too far, and apologies are due--especially when all parties involved in organizing the function knew that this would happen. How would the BSA like it if a Klan leader gave a lecture on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, or any day of the year, for that matter?

In a matter of hours, Dr. Khalid managed to obliterate the growing amounts of racial unity and acceptance in the Mary Washington College community. To say the least, this was a very poor move by the BSA, especially in the wake of the Physical Plant employees controversy, and the problems that arose from the Pleasure concert. Discrimination, be it from a black or a white person, is not acceptable. Explanations and apologies, not public forums, are due.

--Dave Harris '92

Russell Hall Defends Clayton's Accusations

To David Clayton:

Russell Hall congratulates you! By totally exaggerating what few facts that you did manage to use in your March 6 editorial, you were able to turn a simple brush fire into a raging inferno. We are referring of course, to your "Get Marshall into Westmoreland" campaign.

First of all, we at Russell take great offense at being called "MWC's worst dorm." True, not many of us chose Russell voluntarily, but there are few residents now who can honestly say that they really hate it here. Also, those nasty slide-out bed/sofas, as you refer to them, come in very handy for hosting guests (you probably wouldn't know anything about that), and, as with anything else, are easy to get used to. As for location, we don't see how walking down the stairs to Russell can be any worse than hiking the hill to Marshall. Could it just be that you are anxious to get up the hill next year?

As for your infuriation over the rising number of juniors choosing before seniors, why should you be so concerned anyway? After all, you are only a sophomore, unless you were counting on one of your senior neighbors to pull you into Westmoreland. Or maybe you just wanted to make sure that justice prevailed. Oh, please.

We realize that our hall council proposed the change, and appreciate you pointing that out to us. What you failed to mention, though, was that the proposal was made only under the condition that we get displaced status, a condition that was deemed acceptable by both Dean Lefferts and ARH (before Marshall decided to move up the hill, that is). You say that this is our way of taking advantage of existing policies, a "travesty." We say that this is only a fair compensation for sacrificing our rights to Homesteading I and II privileges, privileges which are guar-

see LETTER, page 12

FEATURES

THE MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE BULLET

MWC Students Explore Parachuting

By Jennifer Faith
Bullet Staff Writer

"It's great. You're up so high that you can see the curve of the horizon. The ground goes by underneath you--seeing buildings from above is an interesting experience," said two Mary Washington College sophomores about what it's like falling through the air with only a nylon square keeping you from hitting the ground at 120 miles per hour. Evan Reynolds '92 and Luke Peterschmidt '92 have taken up the sport of parachuting--not your average athletic endeavor.

It all began last summer when Reynolds heard from a friend that one could take parachuting lessons, and decided that he wanted to give it a try. He looked in the yellow pages for the nearest facility, and found Hartwood Aviation, located just outside of Fredericksburg. He began to save his money for the first lesson and jump, which costs \$175 (which includes everything--parachutes, jump suits, airplane rental, gas, instructor, and pilot), and also tried to find a partner. When he returned to MWC last fall, he enlisted his friend Luke Peterschmidt. Together, they jumped for the first time in September, 1989.

"The first five jumps are static line jumps, which means that your ripcord is attached to the plane. You fall for four or five seconds before your parachute is deployed automatically," said Reynolds. The first jumps are taken at an altitude of approximately 3,200 feet. After successfully completing five static line jumps, accelerated free fall jump

classes can be taken. In free fall, you are responsible for pulling your own ripcord. Altitudes for free fall start at 8,500 feet, and you fall for about 25 seconds and about 4,000 feet before pulling the cord. Your top speed? 120 miles per hour--straight down!

The parachutes that Reynolds and Peterschmidt use are rectangular, not round like ones used by the military. This shape creates a more maneuverable parachute (it's the type used for stunts), and makes the landing much softer than the reported "jumping from a two-story building" landings one gets with the military chutes. In fact, both Reynolds and Peterschmidt said that it doesn't hurt at all when they land in a grassy field near Hartwood. The airport uses Cessnas for their small group lessons, and for the large group jumps, a Beechcraft airplane.

For the static line jumps and the first few free falls, a two-step jump process is followed. Instead of just leaping out the door of the airplane, the jumpers first stand on the wheel hub, hang off of the wing strut and then let go. For free falls, only one leg hangs off the strut before falling.

But letting go is the hardest part. Luckily, the instructors are there to encourage the jumpers.

"The jumpmaster instills so much confidence in you. You're so scared that you'll do anything he tells you," said Peterschmidt. The jumpers wear one-way radios for instructions during the actual jump. "It's kind of funny--they [the instructors] can talk to you, but they can't hear a word you say," remarked Reynolds.



Photo Courtesy of Evan Reynolds

Luke Peterschmidt '92 (left) and Evan Reynolds '92 (right) prepare for a jump in their gear.



Photo Courtesy of Evan Reynolds

Evan Reynolds '92 makes a jump at the Hartwood jumping school outside of Fredericksburg.

Dance Team Member Travels To Ireland

By Kate Bailey
Bullet Staff Writer

While most students from Mary Washington College spent Spring Break on the beaches of Daytona, Cancun,

and the Bahamas, sophomore Janine Burpo was kissing the Blarney Stone and looking out over the rolling green countryside of Ireland. Burpo was one of 120 cheerleaders and dancers from high schools and colleges across the

see IRELAND, page 8



Photo Courtesy of Janine Burpo

Janine Burpo '92 (right) and her sister sit in front of a monument in Ireland.

IRELAND...

from page 7

United States to perform in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin last month.

Her involvement in the program began last summer when she and seven other members of the MWC dance team attended a week long summer camp

"It was fun to compare things back and forth."

Janine Burpo '92

sponsored by the National Cheerleaders Association Spirit of America. About 500 students participated in the camp held at the University of Maryland, Baltimore Campus, and of these students, 40-50 were chosen as Superstar Girl Nominees. These nominees exhibited exceptional talent and an ability to quickly learn routines and dance steps.

Burpo was then chosen as one of the ten Superstar Girls after showing her proficiency of dance in a routine performed by the nominees. Both the Superstar Girls and the Superstar Girl Nominees were eligible to travel either to Ireland in March or Hawaii during Christmas break, to participate in the Aloha Bowl.

The trip to Ireland lasted from March 10-17 and the students travelled from Shannon to Limerick, Cork, Blarney, and Dublin. Practice was held for six to eight hours each day, usually from late afternoon into the night.

After working on routines all week, the students performed in Dublin for the guests at the Lord Mayor's Ball and later marched in the St. Patrick's Day parade.

When they were not practicing, the students were free to roam the streets of Ireland, experiencing Irish culture and making new friends.

Burpo was impressed with such sights as the St. Patrick's Cathedral and Blarney Castle, as well as the beautiful green countryside. Though the cities were not as modern as those in the United States, she described them as being free of vandalism and extremely attractive.

A highlight of the trip was the student dinner at Adair Manor, where they were serenaded by bagpipes and awed by the decor of the ancient structure. "Our arrival was even announced by horsemen with trumpets," said Burpo. However, her favorite part of the trip was simply walking through the cities meeting people her own age. She described many of the Irish adolescents as progressive or "new wave" and said they were amazed that she could drive a car.

"None of the kids over there drive cars," Burpo said. "It was fun to compare things back and forth," she added.

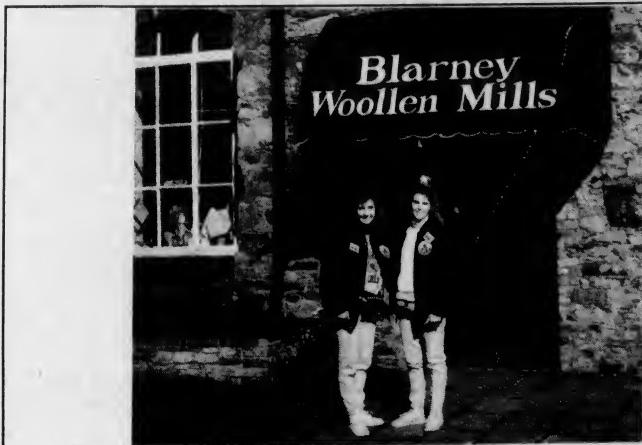
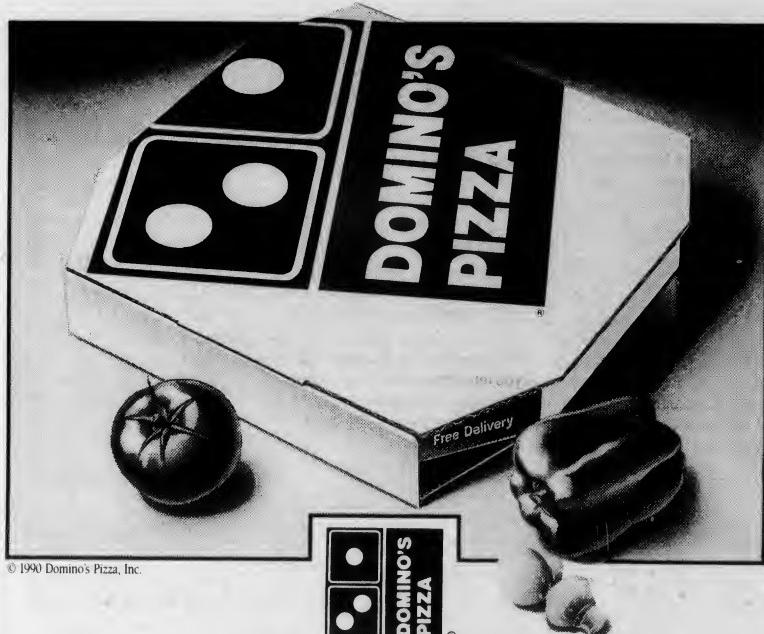


Photo Courtesy of Janine Burpo

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SPORTS

THE MARY WASHINGTON COLLEGE BULLET

Drew Gallagher
Bullet Sports Editor

Anyone tired of major league baseball being the primary source for this column? Well it really doesn't matter. But here's a thing or three that I'm tired of in the major leagues...

-Whitey Herzog's haircut.

-The Washington press and the damn Orioles. Granted they had a fluke cinderella season last year, but the Post Magazine said in a feature that one 50-foot curveball cost the Orioles the AL East pennant. Come on! The Orioles never should have been that close to Toronto or even Cleveland for that matter. They got career years from half the squad (i.e. Mickey Tettleton and Jeff Ballard), and it was nothing short of a miracle that they were in the pennant race after August 1st. Now, Sam Horn, recently plucked from the Joe Charboneau scrap pile, launches two opening-day homers and the Washington papers have started a countdown to the American League playoffs!

-My dad telling me the Phillies aren't going to finish in last place.

-I know this isn't specifically baseball, but on George Michaels' Sports Machine on Sundays at 11:30 p.m., when he pushes those buttons on the panel in front of him to start the highlights rolling. Sorry, I'm not convinced that those cracker jack buttons start the film reels going.

-Kirby Puckett's amazing catches to "rob" home runs. The guy starts the play on the warning track and has to backtrack three steps to get to the ball and barely makes it in time.

-Gregg Jefferies' warning-track power.

-Jose Canseco being upset that the A's front office had the audacity to threaten to bring up his exploits off the field when he goes to arbitration. I can't understand why Oakland's not happier about all that positive publicity either.

-Bill Buckner in a Red Sox uniform after 1986. Kind of like the broccoli crepes at Seacobek. Harmless if left alone, but if you touch them they'll go right through you.

-Pete Rose, Jr. on major league baseball cards. It's simply a case of cashing in on dad. He was on the Frederick Keys last year. Who?

-Spike Owen impersonating a shortstop.

-Last, but certainly not least, I'm tired of collusion. No, not major league owners; this one is much closer to home. Someone in the upper crust of hallowed MWC refuses to pay us for our services on publications. It's kind of like getting in a fight with Dino Ciccarelli...they lure you into the job at hand, but when the gloves come off they are nowhere to be found! I could handle some help. If not financial incentive, how about some writers?

Softball Tourney Cancelled

Eagles improve to 12-7 with wins over Goucher, Shepherd



Photo: Dave Clayton

The Eagles' Cary Bender '92 tags an MWC opponent out at third.

By Allison Stiegler
Bullet Staff Writer

Although the Mary Washington College Invitational Softball Tournament was cancelled on March 7-8 due to rain on the 6th, three of the teams who made the trip played on Saturday and Sunday.

MWC defeated Gannon University of Erie, PA 6-4 in the first game Saturday. Junior Lisa George led the Eagles' offense with two RBIs and sophomore Kim Glover (6-5) allowed only three earned runs to gain the victory.

On Sunday, the Eagles played a

doubleheader against Shepherd College. In the first game, Glover threw a two-hitter and junior Sheri Whited and sophomore Colleen Crowley each had RBIs to lead MWC to a 2-0 win.

Shepherd defeated the Eagles 2-1 in the second game. The lone MWC run scored on Cary Bender's RBI

double.

The Eagles are now 12-7. Whited is leading the team in hitting with a .371 batting average and also leads the team with 24 runs scored and 17 RBIs. Bender is second on the team with a .362 batting average with 10 of her 17 hits going for extra bases.

Fredericksburg to Host Tour de Trump

Historic District to Start Third Stage

By Jennifer Stouffer
Bullet Staff Writer

Fredericksburg will host the third leg of the Tour de Trump cycling event on Saturday, May 5, 1990. In this 7.8-mile road race through the historic, commercial, and residential regions of Fredericksburg, spectators will be able to see professional cycling in all its glory.

The riders are expected to arrive in Fredericksburg several hours before the 10 a.m. start, after completing the first road race from Wilmington, Delaware to Baltimore, Maryland. The 126 cyclists will spend the morning hours warming up and greeting excited spectators before the thrilling start of the race.

NBC will broadcast six hours of network coverage on successive weekends, May 5 and 6 and May 12 and 13.

The race will feature elite cyclists from around the world, who will compete for the pink leader's jersey and the more than \$250,000 purse. In its second year of existence, the Tour de Trump is the richest cycling event to take place in the United States.

The field of cyclists will feature some top contenders, including 1986 and '89 winner of the Tour de France, Greg LeMond and defending Tour de Trump champion Dag-Otto Lauritzen of Norway, as well as Canada's Steve Bauer.

The relatively flat road race will begin at the Fredericksburg Visitor Center at 706 Caroline Street and continue through the commercial 700, 800, and 900 blocks to William Street and across the Chatham Bridge.

see TRUMP, page 10

Hot-Hitting Eagles Ranked 21st in National Poll

By Linda Gail Baker
Bullet Staff Writer

The Mary Washington College baseball team is continuing to have an outstanding spring season under the leadership of Coach Tom Sheridan. The team is 15-3 as of April 10 and is ranked 21st in the nation by *Collegiate Baseball*. The Eagles are 2-0 in the Blue and Gray Conference and 10-0 against Division III opponents. MWC's only three losses this season have come to Division I opponents: VCU, VMI, and Georgetown.

MWC is averaging 10 runs a game and is hitting a collective .365.

Junior Dan Beverly is leading the team in hitting, with a .500 batting average. Against Catholic University on April 8, Beverly went 3 for 3 to increase his club-leading on-base percentage to a remarkable .616 (28 hits and 17 walks in 73 plate appearances). Sophomore Rob Menefee leads the team with 17 RBIs.

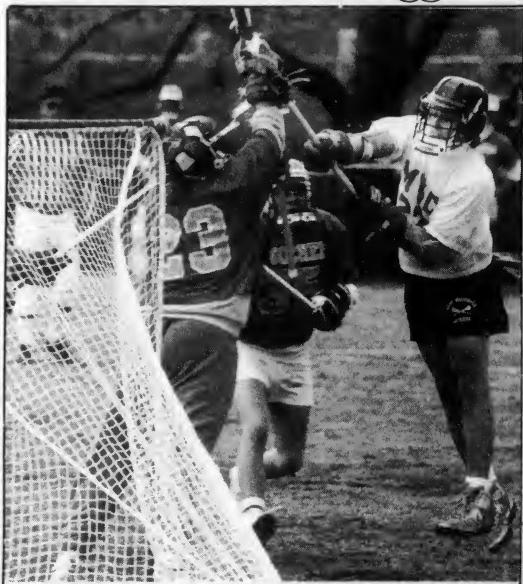
Sophomore designated hitter Dan Canfield, who is hitting .400, hit a two-out single in the bottom of the

see BASEBALL, page 10



Dan Beverly '91

Men's Lacrosse Struggles, Drops to 1-10



The Eagles on the attack against Goucher College.

Photo: David Clayton

TRUMP

from page 9

After that, the race heads down River Road to Route 1, across the Falmouth Bridge and on to Hanson Avenue, Welford Street, Riverside Drive and back onto Caroline Street. The riders then travel through Herndon, Charles, and Lewis Streets before hitting Washington Avenue and Mary

Ball Street, Kenmore Avenue to Lafayette Boulevard will take riders out Routes 2 and 17 to 608 in Spotsylvania.

After the race leaves Fredericksburg, the riders will continue towards central Virginia to the finish line in downtown Richmond.

The 1990 Tour de Trump will run May 3-13 and will cover a total of 1,000 miles. The race will begin in

against what he perceived as the advocacy of violence. Dr. Muhammad made it clear that his position was the same as that of the American revolutionaries, the United States in World Wars I and II, and in the invasion of Panama; violence when necessary. He is not saying anything that hasn't been true of this country since its founding. The last point I would like to make is that if you were not at Dr. Muhammad's

Wilmington, Delaware and continue through eastern Maryland, Virginia, eastern Pennsylvania, eastern New York and Massachusetts before winding up in Boston, the finish city.

This year's race is co-promoted by Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino of Atlantic City, N.J., NBC Sports of New York, N.Y., and Jefferson-Pilot Sports of Charlotte, N.C.

speech, seek all the information you can, not just bits and pieces and not just those which return you to your original point. Muhammad's speech was as positive as it was negative. I am grateful for the experience and I hope we have more controversial events like this on campus, whether I agree with them or not. I came here to learn, and I know you did too.

-Yvette M. Herbert '90

LETTER

from page 6

tor in 1989. This is the same man who fathered massive resistance during desegregation in Virginia. One could say, "That was over twenty years ago," but I haven't forgotten, nor have many others.

Third, there is the issue of the derogatory statements made by Dr. Muhammad toward Jews and whites. Dr. Muhammad said he did not come to Mary Washington to be diplomatic and to hold his tongue. He was not, and did not. I have no problems with him standing by his convictions, but that does not mean that I, as an intelligent human being, have to agree with every word that came out of his mouth. I can not admire his being insulting, but that does not invalidate everything he said.

And fourth, I have some problems with the comments made in my presence to Dr. Muhammad and about his speech. One criticism was made during the question and answer period about the two black figures holding hands on the inside of the program. The question was, "Why can't one of them be white?" This country is like a machine, and if parts of that machine do not work properly, then neither will the machine. As expressed in the quote on the program itself, his purpose is to bring the black community together. It is called black pride. It is the same pride which most Americans get from a history which is full of leaders like themselves--white. The Nation of Islam is striving to develop the same thing for black people. Another student spoke out

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5. Rob Vass	91	10. Todd Stayin	78

BASEBALL

from page 9

The Mary Washington College men's lacrosse team came close to getting its second victory of the season, but a second-half flexible zone by Randolph-Macon held the Eagles to just three second-half goals as visiting Randolph-Macon won 14-11 in a physical game.

MWC surprised Randolph-Macon, who had beaten the Eagles handily last season, by jumping out to an 8-7 halftime lead, but the Eagles tired in the second half and dropped to 1-10 on the season.

Junior Mick Philip, in his first game since an opening game injury, scored four goals to highlight MWC's attack. Tri-captain senior Tom McMahon also had a high-scoring game for the Eagles.

Part of the Eagles' troubles can be attributed to a difficult schedule which has featured two Division I teams and three Division III top 20 teams. The Eagles' schedule will not be getting any easier as they will travel to Division I Georgetown on April 18 and to top 20 Division III Guilford on April 21.

ninth inning to defeat Catholic 8-7. The Eagles scored two runs in the ninth to come from behind, as junior reliever Mike O'Donnell (3-0) pitched two shutout innings for the victory.

On April 7, the Eagles erupted for 48 runs against visiting Roanoke College in a doubleheader. Freshman Kevin LeStourgeon drove in five runs for MWC.

With the season going well, Coach

Sheridan is hopeful about an invitation to the ECAC Tournament on May 11-13. "Our performance in our remaining 12 games will be a very important determinant," said Sheridan. "When you have a good record, the opponents get tougher because everyone is gunning for you."

The Eagles will travel to Division III defending national champions North Carolina Wesleyan on April 15 and will host Division I William and Mary on April 24.

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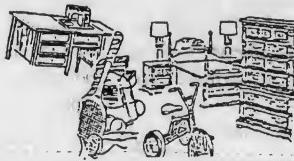
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EVENTS

AAE Performs at Caribbean Festival

By Neil Hetrick
Bullet Staff Writer

On Sunday, Apr. 5, as part of the Global Observations Program 1990, Awareness Art Ensemble created the perfect atmosphere for the "Caribbean Festival," the first of many springtime events at Mary Washington College.

This outdoor reggae concert co-sponsored by SAE in front of Ann Carter Lee Hall proved to be, well . . . very loud.

The "festival" was scheduled to last from 12:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m., but things didn't actually get underway until about 1:30. For a while it looked like rain. A few clouds tried and failed to scare people away with raindrops, and yes, even snow flakes. "It's just blowin' over," remarked one AAE band member just before launching into the first set of songs.

The band played for about three hours,

with one break half-way through the concert. They did not play any Bob Marley tunes, or UB40's "Red Red Wine." According to the group's soundman, AAE played "90 percent original stuff." However, a discerning listener could recognize the odd cover of Musical Youth's "Pass the Dutchie."

The festival's theme was a bit broader than just having a free, good time in the sunshine. The Global Observations Program had something more along the lines of "global awareness" in mind. It was hoped that the concert would help foster some kind of awareness of the situations faced by people in other parts of the world. Apparently, AAE didn't know anything about this, but their own on-stage signs reading "Free South Africa" appropriately reflected the general sentiments of the festival.



Photo Jen Knell

Awareness Art Ensemble jams outside ACL despite April snow showers.

The Beat

By Jim Collins

The Church's Latest: *Gold Afternoon Fix*

The Church's new album, *Gold Afternoon Fix*, is a collection of mostly bland tunes that, for the most part, fade from the hearer's memory soon after it is played.

In 1988, the great *Starfish* album put The Church into the mainstream with the single "Under the Milky Way." This follow-up is a disappointment, offering very little to the listener.

Unlike *Starfish*, *Gold Afternoon Fix* is dominated by the acoustic guitar. Unfortunately, this feature makes the album a very mellow recording that puts one to sleep rather than mingles one out.

Gold Afternoon Fix does, however, include several good tunes, but not enough to save this sleeper.

The first single, "Metropolis," is the album's best track. It is a gentle, rolling song that discusses urban life with mystifying and pseudo-psychadelic lyrics.

Another winner is "You're

Still Beautiful," a song in which singer Steve Kilbey tries to console a woman.

Marty Wilson-Piper sings lead vocals on "Russian Autumn Heart," a decent song with the usual mystifying lyrics. However, The Church's muddled lyrics pose a problem on their latest effort. This obscurity makes it difficult for the hearer to relate to the songs.

In addition to containing too many songs, these tracks are overlong and drawn out. The few good songs cannot override the boredom of "City," "Monday Morning," "Grind," and the aptly titled "Disappointment."

The ads for *Gold Afternoon Fix* claim that this is The Church's "finest hour." The listener, however, should turn the clock back to *Starfish* to find the true greatness of The Church. It is the brilliance of that album that makes *Gold Afternoon Fix* such a disappointment.

The play's salient feature is its successful juxtaposition of devout ecclesialism versus earthly secularism; divine miracle versus a nun's "no-no." The play is certainly probing, and invites the audience to do some internal questioning.

In one insightful scene, Dr. Livingstone, pointing to her head, says "God is in here." She tells Mother Superior that the church has kept Agnes ignorant.

Kirsten Pedersen '90 plays the chain-smoking shrink who becomes obsessed with Agnes. Dr. Martha Livingstone's tenacious character is justified by the trauma of having had her own sister die from appendicitis in a convent years ago because no one would send for a doctor. Thus, in her dealings with Mother Superior and Agnes, her dubious nature is understandable.

The play's salient feature is its successful juxtaposition of devout ecclesialism versus earthly secularism; divine miracle versus a nun's "no-no." The play is certainly probing, and invites the audience to do some internal questioning.

During the performance, the audience also tries to decide who and

what to believe.

The drama's format is one big flashback narrated by Dr. Livingstone. Within this larger flashback are smaller ones that re-create the events surrounding Agnes and the mysterious pregnancy and murder. Dr. Livingstone reflectively addresses the audience in between the re-enactments.

The characters of Dr. Livingstone and Mother Superior, played by DeAnna Toten '91, are polarized in a number of ways. Dr. Livingstone represents a new field of science, where the methods to one's madness are studied, where mental processes and behavior are investigated. Rational explanations are at least sought, if not found. Dr. Livingstone needs answers.

Mother Superior, on the other hand, is pious and interested in the spiritual. She is thoroughly satisfied with God's will and is more concerned about the "propriety" of Agnes, who is not only one of her nuns, but also (as we shockingly find out) her niece.

Toten is stoic and credible as the Mother Superior who responds to Agnes' "pregnancy" with a self-assured, "God permitted it." For her, that is enough. She can look for answers, but will remain content with or without finding the one.

In one insightful scene, Dr. Livingstone, pointing to her head, says "God is in here." She tells Mother Superior that the church has kept Agnes ignorant.

There is supposed to be an affectionate relationship between Agnes and the psychiatrist, but, unfortunately, I thought one verbal "of course I love you" exchange by Pedersen's character was quite contrived and unconvincing.

Despite some obvious differences among these three characters, nature has bonded them by some shared feelings of frustration. Mother Superior has had a family and children (who never visit, by the way). For personal reasons she has devoted her life to God.

In one of Livingstone's narrations, Pedersen is riveting as she dramatically describes a dream in which a cesarean section is being performed and she is pulled into the womb, limb by limb, by the baby inside.

Agnes' recollections of her childhood, wrought with physical molestation and emotional abuse by her mother, give the audience some insight into her psyche. Although Agnes is 21, she is very much still a child, ignorant and ashamed of her body and physical appearance.

The background of all three characters is important, as they suggest, in varying degrees, a lack of control. Thus, Pielmeier not only questions the authority of religion, but also addresses the complex relationship between woman and her body. There is a feminist overture to the text, as Pielmeier voices the shared anger, ambivalence, and the need for self-realization.

Poates plays a convincing, perplexed, somewhat dreamy Agnes. Poates' wide-eyed look is similar to that of a deer caught by a poacher's spotlight. Her tightly crossed-arm stance effectively relays Agnes' desire for self-protection.

Agnes' repetitive, determined responses of "I don't know" to Dr. Livingstone's many interrogations aptly resemble those of a child thrilled by the discovery of a new word or phrase. Agnes wants to

see AGNES, page 12

MWC "Comes Together" For Weststock

By Ben Kramer
Bullet Staff Writer

On Sat. Apr. 8, MWC was treated once again to Westmoreland Hall's most popular tradition of the year, Weststock.

Weststock III was held under sunny skies with a cool breeze—absolutely perfect for folks who like to lay on blankets, catch some rays, or play around with a softball or frisbee.

Weststock drew a fairly large crowd of about 200 with some visitors from

AGNES

from page 11

do what is right, what God would ordain. She is a puppet, at the mercy of the influence of others.

Agnes' naivete does, however, allow for some comic relief. When Dr. Livingstone asks Agnes where the baby came from, Agnes looks down at herself and answers the doctor literally with "Down there." Dr. Livingstone says with a laugh, "I know, but where did it come from before that?"

During the hypnosis flashbacks, Moses is especially intense and entrancing, enabling the audience to accompany Agnes on her w�seal journey back to the night of the mysterious conception.

LETTER

from page 6

anted to all students, no matter what class they are currently in.

We also realize that not all of us are going to remain here next year. Once again, you grossly exaggerated the facts with your colorful simile about the *Bullet* staff. If you had bothered to take even a minute to check your assumptions, you would have realized that a survey prepared by our hall council showed that 41 residents were going to homestead. Now 41 people is by no means a majority, but it is 27 percent of Russell's population, and the last time we checked, 27 percent is a fairly large minority.

We understand the decision that was made by the administration, and most of us agree with it. As you said, "no matter what Residence Life decides to do, someone

as far away as Albany State University in New York. A great time was had by all who listened to the various bands playing on the stage in front of Westmoreland. Among the entertainers featured were Buddhist Priest and comedian Chris Kilmartin.

During the two hours that the Jazz Festival played in Dodd, the Weststock committee creatively entertained the crowd by distributing free hula-hoops and frisbees.

The Weststock T-shirts proudly displayed Opus, the famed penguin of Bloom County prestige with the mes-

sage "Come Together" on the back. Those who wore the t-shirts could eat sandwiches, hot dogs, and chips free at Weststock.

Cups with penguins on them were also popular souvenirs. Food and refreshment booths were run by dedicated Weststockers and friends.

A cotton-candy machine, sponsored by the MWC RAs, also added fun and flavor to the day.

Weststock III proved to be yet another great outdoor springtime party where people could mellow out with friends.

This production's interpretation of the text takes a worldly rather than spiritual approach. The set, however, provides contrast by favoring abstraction. The actresses face the audience in the first act and barely turn to speak to a character. This lack of interplay onstage suggests the physical and philosophical distances between characters. In fact, it intensifies the chasm between them.

I applaud MWC's dramatic arts department for presenting a complex, probing mystery. Agnes' (somewhat understandable) insanity is implied at the play's end, but there are certainly no clear-cut solutions. And, of course, the "father" of Agnes' bahn is never revealed. (Colonel Mustard, maybe?) Definitely not for the average MTV viewer, "Agnes" entices deep thought. If you get a chance to see a production of it, go. Shakespeare sums it up (with thumbs up) best: "Get thee to a nursery."

will cry about it." From our perspective, the only crying and whining is coming from your mouth, and that is what we feel to be the true tragedy.

-Russell Hall

Dodd's Dollar-ama Drama

The Abyss

Apr. 21 7:30 p.m.
Apr. 24 7:30 p.m.
10:00 p.m.

Look Who's Talking
Apr. 29 2:30 p.m.



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Personals

To Scary Mary P.:

Thanks for entertaining me at the Info Desk. Unfortunately, I never did learn how I could vote in Virginia!

-Maureen

To AJS: Remember - the J-desk, the river, Georgetown, Mason lobby, "the Valley", and glow-in-the-dark constellations. I love you.
-Mo

Mandhu,
Happy Graduation!

Roger G.: You are the bee's knees, you are my sunshine, and you're falling for that certain smile...and nothing compares to you (even when you say the b-word)! I laugh as I write this...). I love you always and forever!
-Jen

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To the Boys of BOY: Thanks for letting me sit in on your practices. I'll always be your most devoted groupie. P.S. - I still think you should consider "LedKnot"!
Mo

To Mitch-the-Bitch, Slick Vic, and Dob ("San Diego"): The past four years have been unforgettable. We're tunnel-dwellers forever! Don't forget: at least one a year! Who gets 1991? I'll take 92 - SPAIN!
-Mo-the-Ho

To D&M-
Welcome to Willard..Keith & I would like eggs on Monday, pancakes on Tuesday....

Hey Gila-
What's that nasty blue thing on your neck? Tell Mrs. Harley it was an accident, kinda. (TOUCAN)

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